

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A laryngeal mask airway including a tubular portion and a mask portion at a patient end of the tubular portion having a sealing cuff of generally oval shape defining an opening within a center thereof and adapted to seal with patient tissue around the laryngeal inlet, the mask portion defining a recess extending ~~without interruption~~ from the opening to the patient end of the tubular portion without any obstructing structure such that the entire recess is available for receiving patient tissue, characterized in that the patient end of the tubular portion is located above and to the rear of the rear side of the opening such as to space it away from the epiglottis.
2. (Previously presented) An airway according to Claim 1, characterized in that the patient end of the tubular portion is located substantially midway across the width of the rear side of the sealing cuff.
3. (Previously presented) An airway according to Claim 1, characterized in that the tubular portion is a separate tube bonded into a collar on the mask portion.
4. (Previously presented) An airway according to Claim 1, wherein the recess has a roof, characterized in that the longitudinal center line along the internal surface of the roof of the recess is substantially straight.
5. (Previously presented) An airway according to Claim 1, characterized in that the height of the recess is between 2.5 and 3.5 the internal diameter of the tubular portion.
6. (Previously presented) An airway according to Claim 1, wherein the recess has a volume, characterized in that the ratio of the internal diameter of the tubular portion cubed to the volume of the recess is between 50 and 68.

7. (Currently amended) A laryngeal mask airway including a tubular portion and a mask portion at a patient end having a sealing cuff of generally oval shape defining an opening within a center thereof and adapted to seal with patient tissue around the laryngeal inlet, the mask portion defining a recess extending from the opening to the patient end of the tubular portion, characterized in that the height of the recess available for receiving patient tissue is between 2.5 and 3.5 the internal diameter of the tubular portion.

8. (Previously presented) An airway according to Claim 7, characterized in that the height of the recess is between 2.96 and 3.27 the internal diameter of the tubular portion.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) An airway according to Claim 2, characterized in that the tubular portion is a separate tube bonded into a collar on the mask portion.